## **Community resources**

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courage is contagious

## Viewing cable 07BOGOTA4029, PRESIDENT URIBE EXPLAINS UNILATERAL RELEASE OF \

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the <u>structure of a cable</u> as well as how to <u>discuss</u> them with others. See also the <u>FAQs</u>

## **Understanding cables**

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables (<u>browse by origin</u> to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this <u>WikiSource</u> article as reference.

## **Discussing cables**

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at theparagraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags #cablegate and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #07BOGOTA4029.

Reference IDCreatedReleasedClassificationOrigin07BOGOTA40292007-06-05 18:03 2011-08-30 01:44 CONFIDENTIAL Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks

INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7577\

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VZCZCXYZ0002
OO RUEHWEB
DE RUEHBO #4029/01 1561803
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 051803Z JUN 07
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5897
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 7577
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 9042
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUN LIMA 5109
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 0353
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 5726
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 3978
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
110987 2007-06-05 18:03:00 07BOGOTA4029 Embassy Bogota CONFIDENTIAL 07BOGOTA3879 VZCZCXYZ0002\
OO RUEHWEB\
DE RUEHBO #4029/01 1561803\
ZNY CCCCC ZZH\
O 051803Z JUN 07\
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA\
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5897\
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RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 9042\
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUN LIMA 5109\
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 0353\
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 5726\
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RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC\
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC\
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC\
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC\
 CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 004029 \
SIPDIS \
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SIPDIS \
E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2017 \
TAGS: KJUS PGOV PINR PREL PTER CO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT URIBE EXPLAINS UNILATERAL RELEASE OF \
FARC PRISONERS \
REF: BOGOTA 3879 \
Classified By: Political Counselor John S. Creamer. \
Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d) \setminus
Summary \
\underline{\P}1. (C) President Uribe explained in a radio and television \setminus
news conference on June 4 that his unilateral FARC prisoner
release was a goodwill gesture to gain the freedom of 56 \
political hostages held by the FARC, including the three U.S. \
           XXXXXXXXXXX told Polcouns \
hostages.
President Uribe's unilateral initiative was designed to head \
off what Uribe perceived as growing domestic and \
international pressure on the GOC to accept a demilitarized \ zone ("despeje") to jump start humanitarian accord talks. A \
joint statement by Spain, France, and Switzerland welcomed \
Uribe's release of the FARC prisoners and encouraged the FARC \
to respond to the initiative. End summary. \
_____\
Uribe's Explanation to the Nation \
\
¶2.
     (U) In a radio and television news conference on June 4, \
President Uribe explained that his unilateral FARC prisoner
release was a goodwill gesture to gain the freedom of 56 \
political hostages held by the FARC, including the three U.S. \
hostages. Uribe said the GOC had cleared close to 200 \
prisoners who would be required to renounce their FARC \
membership, commit not to return to the FARC or other \
criminal activity, and to participate in a reinsertion \
program. As for the release of the highest ranking FARC \inmate, informal FARC "Foreign Minister" Rodrigo Granda, \
Uribe said he had refused to renounce his FARC membership, \
but had agreed to act as a peace facilitator. Granda was \
transferred from La Dorada prison to the Catholic Bishop's \
administrative offices in Bogota. \
Uribe's Rationale for FARC Prisoner Release \
 \
     (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX told \
¶3.
Polcouns on June 4 President Uribe's unilateral initiative to \
release some FARC prisoners reflected his perception that \
domestic and international pressure on the GOC to accept a \
demilitarized zone or "despeje" to jump start humanitarian \
accord talks was building. Internal polls showed growing \
numbers of Colombians accepted a despeje, and Colombia felt \
"increasingly alone on the international stage--both in the \region, Europe, and the U.S." Uribe feared the Europeans \
would support the FARC demand for a despeje and wanted to \
pre-empt European pressure. His decision to release some \
FARC members was designed to relieve the pressure to accede \
to a despeje, highlight the FARC's intransigence, and win \ some support for a military rescue. A joint statement by \
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Spain, France, and Switzerland on June 4 welcomed Uribe's \
action and encouraged the FARC to respond to the initiative. \
Sarkozy's office said the French president had "explicitly \ requested" that Uribe release Granda and welcomed his \
Colombian counterpart's "very important and courageous \
decision." \
\
International Support for FARC Prisoner Release \
	exttt{14.} (C) XXXXXXXXXXX said French President Nicholas Sarkozy had \setminus
asked Uribe to release Granda. Uribe decided to accommodate \
Sarkozy's request, telling XXXXXXXXXXX and the Colombian High \
Command that Granda's release was "a cheap price to pay" to \
win Sarkozy's support and to get another advocate for \
Colombia within the G-8. Still, XXXXXXXXXXXX said the GOC \ believed the French do not have an independent channel to the \
FARC. They rely on Swiss official and academic Jean-Pierre \
Gontard to communicate with the group. XXXXXXXXXXX speculated it \
was the Swiss who had urged Sarkozy to ask for Granda's \
release. He said the FARC's and Granda's negative reaction \
to the initiative indicated the Swiss had misread the FARC's \
position. XXXXXXXXXXX said the French appear to be talking with \ the FARC through a "broken telephone." \
\
_____
GOC Considers No Risk to Security \
\
¶5.
     (C) XXXXXXXXXXX said the release of 200 lower-ranking FARC \
would pose no risk to GOC security. Armed Forces Commander \
General Padilla and other commanders supported Uribe, with \
Padilla saying it was better to release the prisoners \
unilaterally rather than as part of a despeje or negotiation. \
XXXXXXXXXXX said separating those FARC willing to accept the \
release from more committed FARC in jail would also help \ isolate/identify hardliners and weaken their position. He \
said the FARC continued to maintain control over most FARC \
prisoners held by the GOC. \
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Drucker \